Nixon Travel Unlikely

Convalescence Seen Lasting Up to 3 Months

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By Leroy F. Aarons
Washington Post Staff Writer

LONG BEACH, Calif., Sept. 30—Former President Nixon is out of danger, his doctor said today, but probably will not be well enough to travel to Washington in the near future for any testimony in the Watergate over-up trial.

Dr. John C. Lungren, the heart specialist who has been treating Mr. Nixon at Long Beach Memorial Hospital Medical Center of Long Beach, said that while Mr. Nixon might be recovered enough to give a written deposition within two weeks, he would be on a "restrictive convalescence" schedule that could rule out travel for as long as three months.

Mr. Nixon is undergoing treatment for phlebitis, which has caused blood clots in his left leg and right lung. Dr. Lungren told a press conference that the former President was "over the hump," but that completion of tests would keep him in the hospital through the end of this week.

Lungren was asked several questions with regard to Mr. Nixon's availability to testify in the trial, which starts Tuesday, of six former White House aides and campaign deputies.

Mr. Nixon has been subpoenaed as a witness for both defense and prosecution. His lawyers have told U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica they will provide a report on the former president's health by Thursday. Sirica is considering a request from Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworksi to send an independent medical team to examine Mr. Nixon.

Lungren was asked: Is he well enough now to withstand a deposition in the hospital?

Lungren: "I would have to say I don't think he is."

How long would it be before he was well enough to travel to Washington?

Lungren: "We will put him on a course of restrictive convalescence, the exact duration of which depends on how he responds to treatment. It will be at least a month, maybe longer. Maybe three months. Honestly, I don't know.

"A restrictive schedule means he will wear supportive hose, and avoid protracted periods of sitting, standing, or riding in a car, airplane or bus."

What about a written deposition?

Lungren: "A written deposition, perhaps, in a period of two or three weeks."

Lungren added that the former President could, of course, choose to ignore his advice. He said, "That's his decision."

The doctor said Mr. Nixon has been taken off the intravenous treatment involving the anticoagulant drug heparen, and now is taking only oral doses of an anticoagulant drug. The treatment is designed to thin the blood to prevent reformation of clots,

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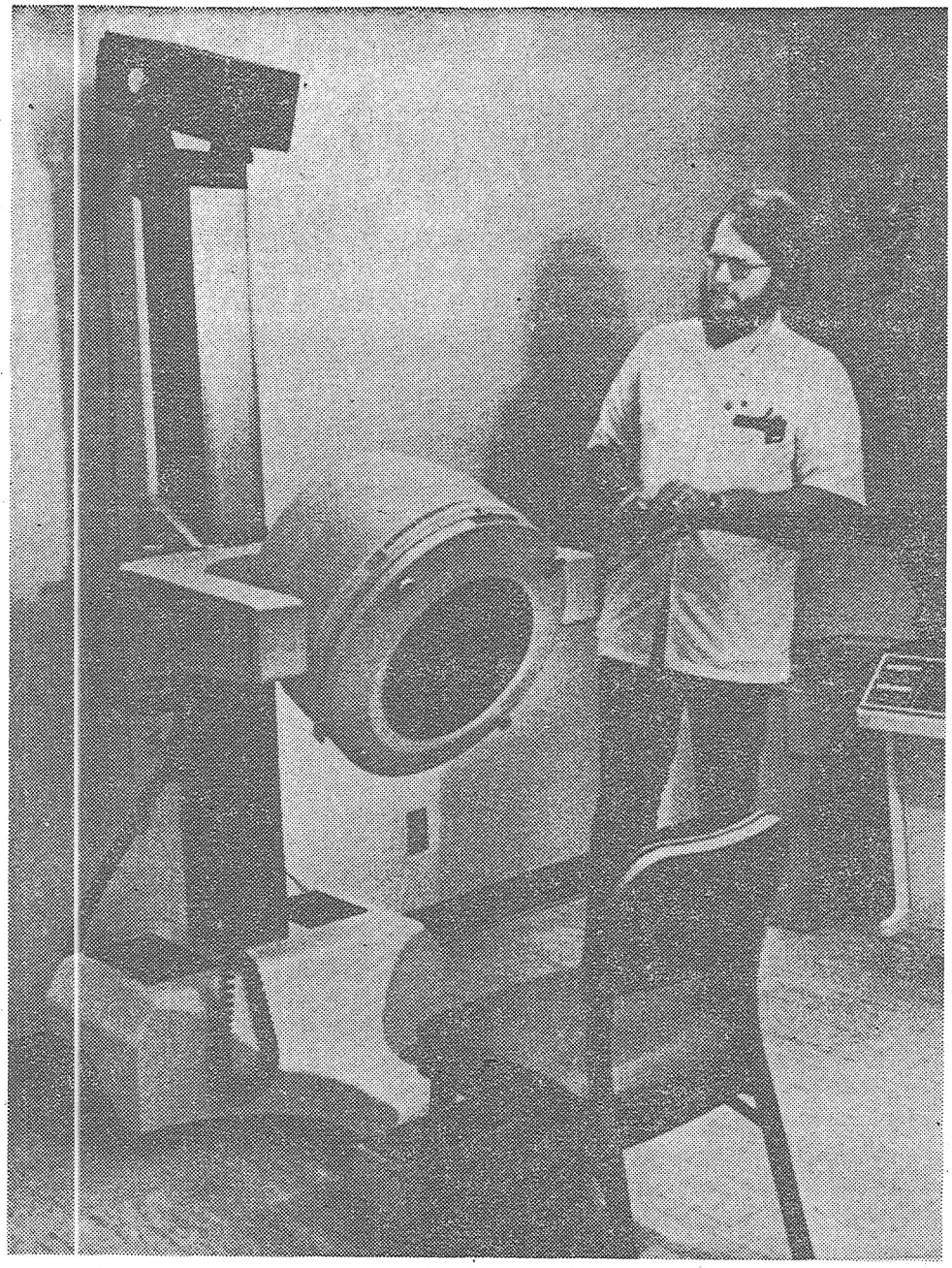
the chief symptoms of a phlebitis condition.

"My feeling is that he is improving, and he is well anticoagulanted," Lungren said. But added that the former President continues to have "marked physical exhaution."

"We have been able to increase his activities. He is now out of bed for portions of the day and sits in a reclining chair with his leg elevated. He is wearing a full length support stocking on his left leg."

Tests taken during Mr. Nixon's week-long stay have revealed lung damage amounting to about 5 per cent of the total lung, Lungren said. He also said that there was only one clot in the former President's leg, not two as previously stated.

Lungren said that a series of cardiograms has revealed no heart damage. He said Mr. Nixon has lost five or six pounds since entering the hospital on Sept. 23 as a natural result of treatment. He is on a low cholesterol diet.



Associated Press

This nuclear camera was used to detect the blood clot in Mr. Nixon's lung.